DEC 15 1954

The enclosed photograph shows Angoon as seen from the dock looking north. On the left hill the highest piece of building is the Russian Church. On some it doesn't show. The left bldg. with double doors facing water is Salvation Army Hall. Large right bldg. is ANB Hall. View showing our own church didn't turn out. Sorry.

ANGOON- BURDICK. 12/54

DEC 15 1954

ANGOON SCRAPBOOK

Christmas, 1954

There's so much to tell since we last visited you by mail that truly we don't know where to start. Precisely, this is because I can't find the last issue of the SCRAPBOOK to see where we stopped. In one who is proud of orderly placement, this is a shame. But we were also ashamed when our "best" copy of the SCRAPBOOK ended up so poor that we had to scrounge for mailable copies. Our apologies! This will not continue.

The house is clean, the dishes are washed--but both our desks are in a turmoil: not because of Christmas, but because November saw us both teaching school. A critical shortage of two teachers finally resulted in our each taking on half a day. The children are undisciplined and almost uneducated. How the church will reap in growth and program if this status can be changed. So we took on this added labor--a preparing of the ground so that the seeds of the Gospel can be planted and will grow.

As you can guess, there have been problems of planning, work, fatigue and all that goes with it. George goes in the mornings for seventh and eighth grade classes (not level of learning, for they are far behind) and Loraine teaches second and third graders in the afternoon. The principal, Archie Demmert, alternates with us on classes. Incidentally, Mr. Demmert was teacher at Gambell on St. Lawrence Island a few years ago and continues then as now to work in close harmony with the church.

The close of fall fishing found Angoon people hurrying to the streams to gaff salmon for drying, then hunting for deer (which is like delicious veal), and now sawing logs for winter.

Late November, and only a few flakes of snow so far. There is lots of rain and cold wind instead. But the house is a little better prepared for the winter and as George keeps one eye on the girls each afternoon, he also continues with reports and repairs. The skirting is finished and the back porch was re-set and given a roof of salvage lumber. No, no one is helping with the housework for nothing but housecleaning and dishes can be done during the day without power. I do wish the electricity came on when it begins to get dark instead of waiting till five o'clock. By then, one can almost see black spots.

Yes, you want to hear about the church program and we're pleased to report good attendance atmmorning and evening church services every Sunday. Only pray with us that they may attend on the Lord each day of the week. Church School at 12 o'clock on Sunday now has the largest attendance since we came and two new teachers. Rejoice in the Lord that the people have come to regard at least two meetings as part of Sunday in Angoon and know that each service will start close to on time. Prayer meeting continues regularly come rain, storm, power failure or many folks going to Juneau for the Alaska Native Brotherhood convention. On November 21st, two babies were baptized while Rev. Armstrong and the PRINCETON-HALL gang were here (Rev. Donald Schwab, Dick Nelson and Dan Kaklen.) Their visit brought encouragement and groceries.

Thanksgiving this year marked both girls down with chickenpox, Lo with a boil on her arm, a morning church service and the arrival of our first Christmas card and package. Our turkey came in by air freight and school was dismissed for two days;; our groceries had come; and most of all, God came with His peace and help. Yes, Thanks-giving: that we did! A new teacher is expected soon (an answer to prayer, the SCRAPBOOK came out

and it was so good to talk things over with Rev. Armstrong. Imagine our surprise to learn that we were entitled to a one month's vacation each year and that the term of service here is only four years. (We had understood that we came for a five year stretch before a furlough.)

We welcome another supporting church--First Presbyterian Church of Kansas City, Missouri. A group has also formed to support us in the Lord's work through prayer. We are humbled at the necessary task they have undertaken in our behalf. If you live too far away to attend, perhaps you'd like to write and join with them through prayer on the same night that they assemble to pray. If you are interested, write to Mr. and Mrs. Hal Keene, 3406 37th Avenue West, Seattle 99, Wash. We need more than one day of prayer a year if the challenges here are to be met and conquered for God's glory. And remember as you pray to include Field Representative and Mrs. R. Rolland Armstrong and Secretary for Alaska Earl Jackman and his wife. Don't leave out Miss Frieda Koerner for she's the New York secretary that keeps our letters sorted and figures out many problems.

On December 10th, the PRINCETON-HALL crew will return to Angoon to help work on the manse. By then, George will have the last new window made for the dining room and they all will make a new lower ceiling as well as lay a second floor. They will be so welcome.

As we start a new year, there will be changes in our SCRAPBOOK mailing list. It now stands at about 140, which is just too many for the Spirit Duplicator to handle (even with the helpful repairs made on our machine by Rev. Armstrong.) Please let us know if you wish to have your name continued. This is NOT a request for money or even postage. We just want to keep on those who read and use the SCRAPBOOK.

Christmas plans have begun and our letters go out--early enough to reach you in time for our greetings to be meaningful. Our prayer for each of you this Christmas is--

Christmas is a holy day
So may your heart be filled
With holiness
All self be stilled
Till God through you
May bless.

George L. Burdick
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